UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1989/5/Add.6
22 January 1992

ENGLISH
Original: ARABIC

First regular session of 1992

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Additional information submitted by States parties to the Covenant following the consideration of their reports by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Addendum

JORDAN*

[9 July 1991]

1. In 1987, the population of the East Bank of the river Jordan was estimated at 2,896,800 persons, comprising 1,515,340 males and 1,381,460 females. Of the total population, 2,018,800 were living in urban areas and 878,000 in rural areas. The expression "urban areas" refers to settlements with a population of 5,000 or more.

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* At the 30th to 32nd meetings of its fifth session, held on 28 and 29 November 1990 (E/C.12/1990/SR.30-32), the Committee considered the initial report of Jordan concerning rights covered in articles 13 to 15 of the Covenant (E/1982/3/Add.38/Rev.1).

By a note dated 9 July 1991, the Government of Jordan submitted additional information which relates to the consideration of that report by the Committee and which is reproduced in the present document.

GE.92-15144/4163B

2. The population of Jordan is not evenly distributed throughout the territorial area of the country. For example, more than half of the population lives in the capital, its suburbs and the Jordan Valley. The population density increases in the north of the country, amounting to 85 persons per km^2, whereas it is much lower in the southern areas, with 15 persons per km^2 at Karak and 8 at Ma'an. In the desert areas, representing the largest part of the country consists (about 77 per cent of the area of the East Bank), the population density amounts to one person per km^2.

3. In 1987, the desert population was estimated at 77,000 persons, distributed among 125 settlements. The Government provides the desert population with health, educational and other social services. There are 23,000 persons of school age living in the desert areas, where they constitute 30 per cent of the total population. The Ministry of Education is currently in the process of drawing up a comprehensive plan to improve the standard of education in the Kingdom, including its desert areas.

4. Arabs constitute the majority of Jordan's population, accounting for 98 per cent of the total. The remainder are groups of non-Arab origin who arrived and settled in the country in the late 1870s. Most of these immigrants came from the area north of the Caucasus (Circassians, Shishan and Daghestanis), although others came from elsewhere (Armenians, Kurds, Turks, etc.). All of them hold Jordanian citizenship and the policy of the Jordanian Government is based on the principle that all citizens of Jordan have equal rights and duties, as members of a single family. The principle of solidarity, together with a firm belief in coexistence as a single entity, is the basic precept that completely precludes all intercommunal problems in the territory of Jordan. The minorities in Jordan enjoy full freedom to exercise their religious, educational, political and cultural rights.

5. In 1987, the Government continued its efforts to stimulate the national economy and adapt it, as far as possible, to the circumstances of economic recession that were still prevalent in the States of the region. The Government continued to pursue economic policies aimed at promoting various economic activities, with special emphasis on the encouragement of domestic production, support for national exports and the attraction of savings and foreign investment as a means of financing and developing domestic economic activity.

6. The Jordanian economy is still suffering from the adverse effects of economic recession, particularly the decline in external demand for Jordanian labour, rising unemployment in the domestic market, the decline in the volume of remittances from Jordanians working abroad and the decrease in the value of the financial assistance provided by the Arab States.

7. The objectives of the Five-Year Plan (1986-1990) covered all areas of activity, including social development. The Plan clearly emphasized the importance of social development as one of the cornerstones of economic development and also as the ultimate aim of development efforts in general. All citizens have the right to adequate health, education and housing services, which must be provided in conjunction with the achievement of a more equitable distribution of income among the people and the various regions.

Future development efforts will be aimed at the final elimination of pockets of poverty through employment opportunities, income-generating projects and ongoing training and skill development. Accordingly, social development efforts will focus on the following fields:

(a) The achievement of social justice in all parts of the Kingdom in order to ensure a geographical balance in the distribution of social and economic services;

(b) Regional and local development and the provision of incentives for the population to contribute to, and participate in, the formulation, implementation and monitoring of comprehensive development programmes through the enhancement of regional planning methods;

(c) The expansion of economic and social development projects in the Jordanian desert, including the improvement of existing infrastructure, in order to identify the potential of the desert areas in Jordan and ensure the utilization of their natural resources and their general development by establishing infrastructural facilities and promoting various branches of activity;

(d) The development and wider dissemination of health services, including the improvement of their effectiveness in order to reduce the infant mortality rate, extend life expectancy, firmly establish the concepts of preventive and primary health care and increase health awareness among the population;

(e) The expansion and development of education services with a view to the complete eradication of illiteracy by the year 2000, by increasing the proportion of children attending primary and secondary schools and enhancing educational curricula, methods and services so as to make them more consistent with future needs.

8. The specific aims of social development are:

(a) To develop human resources by improving living standards and social institutions;

(b) To endeavour to achieve social justice with a view to strengthening attachment to the homeland and the sense of satisfaction derived from a give-and-take approach;

(c) To improve the effectiveness, expand the capacity and broaden the programmes of existing social institutions and voluntary bodies in order to compensate for the shortage of services wherever necessary;

(d) To deal with social problems and the break-up of families through preventive and remedial programmes;

(e) To develop and improve traditional and rural cottage industries and handicrafts in order to protect the people's artistic heritage as a suitable means to increase individual and national income;

(f) To provide social security for persons not covered by the existing schemes, in the form of an adequate fixed income (for the poor and needy) sufficient to meet family needs and the needs of persons with a low income or lacking a means of livelihood;

(g) To provide job opportunities for disabled persons who can be rehabilitated and to facilitate their access to employment and public service in public and private enterprises;

(h) To protect and promote the welfare of children, as the basic means to shape their behaviour and values, and to provide them with an environment conducive to their balanced development;

(i) To increase women's contribution to development by enhancing their productive abilities and skills in all fields.

9. Jordan's Constitution and legislation contain numerous legal provisions for the protection of human rights. Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Constitution stipulates that: "The State shall do everything within its power to ensure the availability of work and education and to guarantee peace of mind and equality of opportunity for all Jordanians". Under article 19 of the Constitution: "Communities have the right to establish and run their own schools for the education of their members, provided that they comply with the general provisions of the law and subject to government supervision of their curricular and education policy". Article 20 of the Constitution further stipulates that: "Primary education is compulsory for Jordanians and is provided free of charge at government schools".

10. With regard to paragraph 2 of the list of issues, concerning the extent to which the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam is compatible with the Covenant, that Declaration, which was adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference on 5 August 1990, emphasizes the historic role of the Islamic nation in bequeathing to mankind a balanced universal civilization which combines science with faith. The Islamic nation has also contributed to mankind's endeavours in the field of human rights with a view to protecting the human person from exploitation and persecution and affirming his freedom and his right to a decent life.

11. A study of the full text of the articles of that Declaration shows that they deal with many aspects of human rights. In this connection, we are concerned mainly with the following provisions:

(a) Article 7 (b): "Parents and guardians have the right to choose the type of education that they wish their children to receive, with due regard for the children's interests and their future in the light of ethical values and the provisions of Islamic law";

(b) Article 9 (a): "The quest for knowledge is an obligation and education is a duty incumbent on society and the State, which must guarantee ways and means for its provision in a diversified manner in order to serve the interests of society and enable every person to acquaint himself with the Islamic religion and universal truths so that they can be used for the greater good of mankind". Under paragraph (b) of the same article: "Every person has

the right to expect that the various institutions responsible for his education and enlightenment, including the family, the school, the university and the information media, will cater for his spiritual and temporal upbringing in an integrated and balanced manner conducive to the development of his character and the strengthening of his belief in God, as well as his respect for rights and obligations, which must be protected";

(c) Article 16: "Every person has the right to benefit from the fruits of his scientific, literary, artistic and technological production and to enjoy protection of his literary and financial interests, provided that such production is consistent with the provisions of the Shari'a";

(d) Article 22 (c): "Information is of vital importance to society and must not be exploited or misused; it is forbidden to blaspheme, to detract from the dignity of the Prophets or to engage in any act that is likely to prejudice ethical values, expose society to the dangers of disintegration, dissolution or harm, or weaken the faith.

12. A comparative review of the above provisions shows that they are largely consistent with their counterparts as set forth in the Covenant. In fact, in the final analysis, those provisions provide confirmation that, from ancient times, human rights have been a topic of research and a matter of concern, since they are the goal to which mankind has aspired in order to live in peace and security. They herald a new era in which mankind will be freed from fear, injustice and tyranny by virtue of its enjoyment of those rights and freedoms. No derogation can be permitted from the principle that it is in the interests of children to receive the requisite and appropriate care from their parents. The right of every individual to freedom of thought must be respected. No one should be forbidden to use his intellect or to express the results of his cogitation. All persons have the right to dispose of their property and to enjoy a decent life and no individual or family should be left prey to ignorance, disease or poverty.

13. With regard to parts II and III of the list of issues, concerning the right to education, the reply of the Ministry of Education is contained in the annex.

14. With regard to part IV of the list of issues (paras. 10-19): Concerning paragraph 10, article 3 of Statute No. 5 of 1990, which regulates the organization and functions of the Ministry of Culture, stipulates that the Ministry is responsible for the formulation and implementation of general cultural policy, in cooperation and coordination with the authorities and bodies concerned, in accordance with the legislation and regulations in force. Article 3 of Statute No. 48 of 1988, concerning the propagation of culture and the national heritage, stipulates that the Ministry must endeavour to propagate culture and the national heritage by every possible means and, to that end, is empowered to print and publish cultural works in accordance with the provisions of the Statute. Accordingly, the Jordanian Government, through its specialized departments represented by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, is playing the role required of it with a view to the achievement of the objectives for which the Ministry was established in the light of the following considerations:

(a) The promotion of cultural activity must be viewed as a duty of the State and a right of every citizen whether in Jordan or abroad. Consequently, this activity must be divested of any commercial aspect and must not be assessed on the basis of the material criteria of profit and loss;

(b) The Ministry's functions comprise clearly defined categories of ongoing and recurrent activities and programmes throughout the year. It sponsors artists and authors, safeguards and propagates the national literary, artistic and scientific heritage, establishes cultural and arts centres, supervises the activities of similar centres established by other bodies, subsidizes the writing, translation and publication of literature and establishes museums for the display of historical treasures, artistic works and popular handicrafts. In order to perform these functions, it is dependent on the financial resources allocated to it.

15. The Ministry also contributes towards other cultural activities in and outside Jordan. The extent of this contribution depends on the financial resources allocated to activities within the Kingdom and to the dispatch of artistic delegations and representatives of the Ministry and other bodies to make Jordanian culture better known abroad.

16, With regard to paragraph 11, in order to promote an increase in cultural and creative production, the Government promulgated the State Prizes Statute No. 49 of 1988, article 3 of which makes provision for the award of prizes to encourage and reward such production. Article 4 of the Statute stipulates that the two types of prizes are to be awarded in the following fields: literature, science, sociology, the arts and any other field that might be deemed appropriate by the Council of Ministers on the basis of a recommendation by the minister concerned. The Statute also contains other details of those prizes, such as their conditions, their component elements and their value, etc.

17. The Ministry of Culture has established seven cultural directorates in the principal towns of the governorates in the Kingdom in order to provide cultural services for the population of those governorates.

18. Jordan has 17 cultural centres of varying sizes which provide a wide range of services. The principal centres are the Palace of Culture at Amman and the Salt Cultural Centre, which constitutes a small cultural village containing a large multi-purpose hall, as well as a library, a museum, a mosque, a commercial market and a vocational school which provides training in the art of weaving and ceramics.

19. There are 10 museums distributed throughout the territory of Jordan. The principal museums are the Amman Museum, which is situated on Jabal Qalaa, and the Folklore Museum adjoining the Roman amphitheatre at Amman. The amphitheatre is, in itself, a cultural facility and a time-honoured heritage dating from the Roman period in which cultural, artistic and musical performances and public meetings are held. In addition to the public museums, there are also other museums in the Jordanian universities.

20. In order to ensure that citizens can benefit from the latest worldwide developments in the fields of thought, culture, art and literature, the Kingdom has established 222 libraries.

21. With regard to the role of the cinema, in view of the competition from video films there has been no increase in the activities or the number of cinemas.

22. With regard to arts centres, the Ministry of Culture operates a fine arts training centre at which any citizen, and particularly talented persons and lovers of fine arts, can obtain free training in the art of drawing, sculpture, Arabic calligraphy, the dramatic arts, music, etc. Yarmouk University has established a Fine Arts Department the graduates of which are awarded a B.A. degree in fine arts. The Salt Development Foundation, in collaboration with the Nur al-Hussein Foundation, is sponsoring the newly-established Salt Training Centre for Weaving and Ceramics, which is seeking to revive and develop ancient crafts, such as the weaving of carpets and textiles and the manufacture of pottery and earthenware products, which had flourished there until recent times. Other centres are being sponsored by associations such as the Jarash Ladies' Association, which provides training and employment opportunities for young girls in the fields of dressmaking, embroidery, carpet weaving and traditional handicrafts for which there is a current demand.

23. The Government is also studying a project for the establishment of a Union of Jordanian Artists with a view to promoting artistic activity in Jordan.

24. With regard to paragraph 12, Jordan is constantly endeavouring to create appropriate conditions conducive to the development of cultural life and creativity and is also supporting and sponsoring cultural personalities so that they can play a more prominent and active role in modern life. At the same time, Jordan is striving to serve the cultural sector through the establishment of libraries and has already established a National Library and a National Archival and Documentation Centre. The Ministry of Culture issues the following publications:

The Ihya' al-Turath (Revival of the Heritage) series;

Outstanding literary works;

The monthly magazine Afkar (Reflections), which contains articles on cultural and literary subjects;

The magazine Sawt al-Jeel (Voice of the Rising Generation), which is a mouthpiece for promising and talented young writers.

25. Jordan is continuing its endeavours to provide the basic services and facilities needed to organize, develop and invigorate the cultural movement in general and to facilitate public access to all forms of cultural activities and works in order to promote the participation of the masses in cultural life. The cultural centres, which are distributed throughout the Kingdom, are open to all lovers of the arts. For example, the Royal Cultural Centre in the city of Amman comprises halls for conferences and seminars, rooms for the performance of various types of cultural and artistic works, and a large and a small theatre for various cultural and artistic activities, such as theatrical

performances, concerts, popular music and folklore festivals, and the periodic screening of films in collaboration with foreign cultural centres, etc.

26. With regard to paragraph 13, Jordan is particularly interested in the cultures of other peoples and nations throughout the world and has concluded cultural and scientific cooperation agreements with a large number of Arab and foreign States. About 16 such agreements have been concluded with Arab States and 26 with friendly foreign States.

27. Jordan participates in worldwide cultural and artistic festivals to which it sends delegations of Jordanian artists and performers, particularly its numerous folklore troupes and the Fuhais musical ensemble (which was established to revive the Arab musicial heritage). Jordan also participates in art exhibitions and theatrical seasons abroad and, through the Jarash International Festival which is held every year, has firmly established the concept of worldwide cultural interaction since that annual festival includes cultural, artistic, musical and other displays and performances by groups from many countries in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa, in addition to the Arab countries. These cultural and artistic activities assume numerous forms, such as the recitation of poetry, theatrical performances, displays by folklore troupes and exhibitions of books and paintings, etc. It is noteworthy that this festival provides an opportunity not only for the people of Jordan but also for visitors from Arab and other countries to acquaint themselves with the cultures of other nations.

28. It should also be noted that Jordan hosts cultural and artistic activities every year and invites artists and musicians to visit the country within the context of the cultural exchange programmes provided for in its cultural agreements with other countries.

29. With regard to paragraph 14, the Government provides opportunities for all ethnic, social and age groups to freely express their cultural identity, practise their cultural customs and traditions and establish clubs and associations for the members of their communities. For example, Circassians, Shishan, Armenians and other communities have their own clubs, associations and folklore troops to preserve the heritage of their minority communities.

30. These minorities participate in various artistic activities in and outside the Kingdom. They also have their own schools at which their children are taught their mother tongues (Armenian, etc.), and the Government provides material and moral support for those activities.

31. With regard to paragraph 15, the various information media play a primary role in stimulating and propagating cultural awareness among citizens and in assisting schools and universities to develop literary and artistic talents. They also show an interest in the theatre and the arts and give extensive coverage to locally produced works. The radio and television stations in Jordan are Government-owned, whereas the press is owned by the private sector in order to create a balance between the official and private mass information media. Jordanian television broadcasts cultural programmmes for children and adults and also presents weekly cultural discussion groups on literature, poetry, politics and various other topics.

32. With regard to paragraph 16, Jordan is rich in important archaeological, religious and tourist sites. It also enjoys a temperate and varied climate and a central geographical location. Consequently, it possesses the advantages needed to attract tourists with a wide variety of interests from all parts of the world.

33. Jordan has promulgated legislation to protect the cultural heritage of mankind through the Department of Antiquities Act, which makes provision for the protection, maintenance and preservation of the archaeological heritage as an asset which plays a prominent role in developing mutual understanding and promoting cultural and humanitarian contacts among peoples.

34. Archaeological maintenance, restoration, excavation and exploration projects are constantly being conducted. The numerous projects that are currently under way include the following:

(a) The restoration of the historic city of Jarash, where archaeological excavation and exploration work is continuing;

(b) The Jordanian Museum of Antiquities project, the aim of which is to establish a new national museum at a cost of 2.5 million dinars;

(c) The project for the development of museums, the aim of which is to highlight the local heritage of each governorate by displaying the archaeological relics excavated there in order to make citizens more aware of the history of their governorate, the importance of their archaeological heritage and the need to preserve it;

(d) Archaeological excavations;

(e) The purchase of antiquities with a view to their protection and preservation;

(f) The purchase of land;

(g) The collection and study of ancient Arabic manuscripts;

(h) Archaeological surveys;

(i) The restoration of mosaics and frescoes;

(j) The renovation of archaeological sites in Jordan.

35. With regard to paragraph 17, Jordan was one of the first Arab States to ratify the Copyright Protection Convention, which was adopted at the General Congress of Arab Ministers of Culture held at Tunis on 26 December 1981 with a view to protecting the rights of the authors of literary, artistic and scientific works in an effective and uniform manner.

36. The Ministry of Culture has drafted a bill of law for the protection of copyright which is one of the most recent legislative instruments in this field. It makes provision for the protection of:

(a) Musical compositions, regardless of whether they are accompanied by lyrics;

(b) Choreographic and mime compositions;

(c) Cinematographic and audiovisual broadcasting works;

(d) Pictorial and illustrative works using lines and colours, as well as architectural, sculptural, decorative and other graphic works;

(e) Photographic works;

(f) Craft and industrial works in the field of the applied arts.

37. Jordan has also ratified the Arab Convention to Facilitate the Transfer of Arab Cultural Works, which was adopted at Tunis during the Congress of Arab Ministers of Culture held on 22 February 1987.

38. With regard to paragraph 18, Jordan attaches special importance to vocational training in the field of culture and the arts. The principal centre concerned with this aspect is the Training Centre in the Fine Arts, which is run by the Ministry of Culture. This centre provides training in music, drawing, sculpture and the visual and dramatic arts for young persons in the 9-16 age group. It also provides opportunities for persons interested in folklore to practise this art as a hobby. At Salt, there is a centre which provides training in weaving and ceramics. The universities, and particularly Yarmouk University, have departments of fine arts. Specialized training courses in various arts are also held.

39. With regard to paragraph 19, science and technology play an extremely important role in accelerating the pace of socio-economic development by increasing productivity. The basic sciences create knowledge and increase man's understanding of himself, his society and his environment, whereas technology develops this knowledge into scientific know-how and puts it into practical application.

40. The Scientific Research Council, which was established in 1964, sponsors scientific research and represents Jordan at scientific meetings of regional and international organizations.

41. The Directorate of Science and Technology, which was established at the Ministry of Planning in 1980, supports various scientific research institutions.

42. Jordan's ability to engage in scientific research has been increased by the establishment of a number of scientific institutions such as universities, particularly the University of Science and Technology, as well as the Directorate of Agricultural Research and Guidance and the Royal Society. A Higher Council for Science and Technology was also recently established for this purpose.

Annex

CULTURE

Introduction

1. Following the establishment of the modern Jordanian State in 1921, the country underwent a fundamental change in lifestyle, with all the cultural consequences that this involved. In the early days of the Emirate, Amir Abdullah ibn al-Hussein personally helped to create a cultural atmosphere at his receptions, which were attended by a number of Arab poets and writers who had accompanied him to Jordan or taken refuge there after leaving their own countries in which they had been under pressure from the foreign mandatory Power. Those poets and writers also wrote articles in the local press. A characteristically Arab culture has developed since the 1920s in the fields of creative production, studies and the arts, which bear the stamp of local as well as Western influence. The unification of the two banks of the river Jordan and the dissemination of education played the major role in the development and expansion of this culture.

A historical review of the cultural movement

2. During the period 1921-1948, the cultural movement was characterized mainly by the close interlinkage between culture and the nascent educational movement. Although there was no educational system at the start of this period, education began to be organized following the promulgation of the Education Act of 1939 under which a Department of Education was set up with the task of establishing schools, encouraging the scientific and literary movements, developing cultural clubs to provide collective and effective guidance for the cultural movement, establishing libraries and promoting literary composition, translation and publishing. The activities of the Department of Publication and the Press, which was established in 1946, were confined to press censorship, measures to facilitate the tasks of journalists and control of publication. The Antiquities Act was promulgated in 1923. A number of eminent authors and proponents of the visual arts emerged and the first modest experiments were made in the dramatic arts.

3. Jordan's demographic and social structure was transformed after 1948 as a result of several factors, the most important of which were the situation in Palestine, the increasing concern with military matters, the development of education, closer association with the Arab world which was undergoing far-reaching transformations, and closer international links in scientific, literary and other fields.

4. During the period 1948-1967, endeavours focused on the broader dissemination of education and the establishment of cultural clubs in the public and private sectors. A number of publications and periodicals appeared and facilities were established for the Jordanian public to participate in cultural, educational, religious and recreational activities. Activity also increased in the visual arts, the theatre and music in general. This period can be regarded as the one in which the basic foundations were laid for the economic, social and cultural infrastructure. It was also the phase during which the University of Jordan, the Association of Jordanian Libraries and the

Department of Culture and Arts were established and plans were made to set up a television station and a news agency to act as information media for the collection and distribution of official and general news reports.

5. Jordanian literature made a name for itself in the 1960s when it developed in all literary fields (poetry, theatre, the short story, the novel, studies and research). In general, from the standpoint of its form and content, these works belong to the Arab literary movement. Following the catastrophe in 1948, the two banks of the Jordan were merged and the newly established entity began to produce new works expressing the unity and aspirations of the two peoples, as well as the past experiences of the Arabs, from a nationalistic standpoint. Translations from foreign languages into Arabic also made their appearance in the literary field and a number of researchers embarked on endeavours to preserve the heritage and contribute to the Arabization of science through a committee that was formed to that end at the Ministry of Education and which subsequently developed into the Jordanian Arabic Language Academy which was established in 1976.

6. A variety of schools of thought appeared in the field of literary criticism and a number of critics published studies on this subject. Several eminent Jordanian poets also achieved high renown, and social concerns and differing views in regard to modernization were reflected in their literary production. The same applied to short stories, novels and the theatre.

7. During the period immediately following the 1967 war, the pace of development, in all its forms, slowed for a while and there was an increase in military mobilization to meet the new situation. There was also a considerable decline in economic growth rates. Notwithstanding that decline, this period witnessed an increase in the number of students attending school. It also witnessed a series of important cultural events. For example, the University of Jordan opened new faculties, the Ministry of Education established more teacher-training colleges and there was a fivefold increase in the number of books published, most of which were written on the subject of land and the resistance. Television broadcasts began, the Royal Scientific Society was established, museums were founded, archaeological excavations continued, specialized works on the national heritage were published, the theatre became more popular, the press developed and greater interest was shown in traditional arts and crafts.

8. Greater emphasis was placed on collective participation in cultural activities during the development boom in the 1970s. The Youth Welfare Foundation established about 263 youth centres, including 50 cultural clubs, and the universities and other publishing houses issued 74 specialized periodicals and magazines. Mutah University was established to combine military with cultural forms of training and the Noor al-Hussein Foundation, of which H.M. Queen Noor is the patron, was set up to supervise the artistic, social and cultural activities, such as the Jarash festivals and the Jubilee School, which Her Majesty is sponsoring. Jordan also signed 39 cultural agreements with Arab and foreign countries. Associations of graphic artists, dramatists and musicians were registered and 50 intermediate colleges were established to provide additional facilities for professional and teacher training. The Royal Academy for Research on Islamic Civilization (the Al al-Beit Foundation) was established to promote better knowledge of the

Islamic Shari'a, to rid Islamic culture of the blemishes with which it had become tainted, to develop a contemporary and uniform Islamic concept of social values and systems, to highlight the generous contribution of Islamic science and civilization to human progress throughout the world, and to endeavour to reconcile and unite the various Islamic sects and schools of thought. During this period, 222 libraries and 94 publishing houses were established, folklore recordings were made and clubs were formed to preserve the national heritage. Centres were established to cater for the welfare and upbringing of children and numerous exhibitions were held to display graphic, literary, sculptural and architectural works, as well as artistic and industrial designs. Considerable interest was shown in traditional crafts and an Association of Dealers in Oriental Objets d'Art was established. Some aspects of popular music were also developed and the cinema became more popular. In the 1980s, Jordan remained an open society benefiting from the latest worldwide intellectual, cultural, artistic and literary developments, in spite of the hegemony which the information media exercised over the minds of the younger generation at the expense of various forms of culture.

Replies to questions 10-19

9. Article 15 of the Jordanian Constitution stipulates that: "The State shall guarantee freedom of opinion and every Jordanian shall be free to express his opinion orally, in writing, pictorially or by any other means of expression, provided that he does so within the limits set by the law".

10. Article 3 of the Statute concerning the organization of the Ministry of Culture defines the Ministry's responsibilities as follows:

(a) To promote and propagate a closer understanding of Arab Islamic civilization, highlighting Jordan's role in its development and providing opportunities for interaction with other human civilizations;

(b) To make the Jordanian cultural movement better known through publication, translation, symposia, conferences, festivals, exhibitions, etc.;

(c) To promote free and independent cultural creativity and protect property rights in regard to cultural works;

(d) To firmly establish the concept of democracy, with all that this implies in regard to respect for human rights and for the constitutionally guaranteed right of citizens to freely express their opinion;

(e) To encourage the study of the classical Arabic language and its use in various fields;

(f) To consolidate the national culture by studying, analysing, identifying and publicizing the national heritage in literature, the arts and science;

(g) To honour and support literary personalities, artists and authors and to encourage talented young persons;

(h) To establish public cultural and artistic centres and museums;

(i) To support literary composition, translation, publishing and distribution activities;

(j) To support public libraries and compile, safeguard, classify and index national archives;

(k) To support the cultural and artistic activities of federations, clubs, associations and leagues.

11. The Ministry of Culture is pursuing these principles, which it regards as the fundamental basis for its various activities and programmes for oral, pictorial, choreographic or musical means of expression.

12. It is noteworthy that the Jordanian National Pact, which was adopted on 9 June 1991 by the Jordanian National Congress, signifies that the process of democratization in Jordan has entered a new stage involving all aspects of the individual's relations with society, as well as all of society's cultural, economic, legislative, political and educational activities. The Pact was drafted in view of the organic interlinkage, interrelated roles and complementary objectives of cultural, educational, scientific, technological and informational issues, and in the light of present-day realities and the particularity of each of those issues in their national, pan-Arab and international dimensions. It deals with contemporary problems, challenges and future aspirations in such a way as to enable national education policy to train a new generation that will be creative, independent in its thought, and mature and aware of its rights and obligations, so that the educational process can help to strengthen national patriotism and promote a scientific and democratic spirit, thereby linking the educational process to production.

13. Jordan is constantly endeavouring to create appropriate conditions conducive to the development of cultural life and creativity and is also supporting and sponsoring cultural personalities so that they can play a more prominent and active role in modern life. At the same time, Jordan is striving to serve the cultural sector through the establishment of libraries and has already established a National Library and a National Archival and Documentation Centre. The Ministry of Culture issues the following publications:

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2. Outstanding literary works.

3. The monthly magazine Afkar (Reflections), which contains articles on cultural and literary subjects.

4. The magazine Sawt al-Jeel (Voice of the Rising Generation), which is a mouthpiece for promising and talented young writers.

5. A monthly magazine entitled Wisam (Medal) for children and young persons.

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16. Jordan has 17 cultural centres of varying sizes which provide a wide range of services. The principal centres are the Palace of Culture at Amman and the Salt Cultural Centre, which constitutes a small cultural village containing a large multi-purpose hall, as well as a library, a museum, a mosque, a commercial market and a vocational school which provides training in the art of weaving and ceramics.

17. There are 10 museums distributed throughout the territory of Jordan. The principal museums are the Amman Museum, which is situated on Jabal Qalaa and contains a collection of priceless archaeological treasures, discovered in Jordan, from various historical periods, and the Folklore Museum adjoining the Roman amphitheatre at Amman. The amphitheatre is, in itself, a cultural facility and a time-honoured heritage dating from the Roman period in which cultural, artistic and musical performances and public meetings are held. In addition to the public museums, there are also other museums in the Jordanian universities.

18. In order to ensure that citizens can benefit from the latest worldwide developments in the fields of thought, culture, art and literature, the Kingdom has established 222 libraries, as already mentioned. With regard to the role of the cinema, in view of the competition from video films there has been no increase in the activities or the number of cinemas.

19. With regard to arts centres, the Ministry of Culture operates a fine arts training centre at which any citizen, and particularly talented persons and lovers of fine arts, can obtain free training in the art of drawing, sculpture, Arabic calligraphy, the dramatic arts, music, etc. Yarmouk University has established a Fine Arts Department the graduates of which are awarded a BA degree in fine arts. The Salt Development Foundation, in collaboration with the Nur al-Hussein Foundation, is sponsoring the newly established Salt Training Centre for Weaving and Ceramics, which is seeking to revive and develop ancient crafts, such as the weaving of carpets and textiles and the manufacture of pottery and earthenware products, which had flourished there until recent times. Other centres are being sponsored by associations such as the Jarash Ladies' Association, which provides training and employment opportunities for young girls in the fields of traditional dressmaking, embroidery, carpet weaving and indigenous handicrafts for which there is a current demand.

20. Jordan is particularly interested in the cultures of other peoples and nations throughout the world and has concluded cultural and scientific cooperation agreements with a large number of Arab and foreign States. About 16 such agreements have been concluded with Arab States and 26 with friendly foreign States.

21. Jordan participates in worldwide cultural and artistic festivals to which it sends delegations of Jordanian artists and performers, particularly its numerous folklore troupes and the Fuhais musical ensemble (which was established to revive the Arab musical heritage). Jordan also participates in art exhibitions and theatrical seasons abroad and, through the Jarash International Festival which is held every year, has firmly established the concept of worldwide cultural interaction since that annual festival includes cultural, artistic, musical and other displays and performances by groups from many countries in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa, in addition to the Arab countries. These cultural and artistic activities assume numerous forms, such as the recitation of poetry, theatrical performances, displays by folklore troupes and exhibitions of books and paintings, etc. It is noteworthy that this festival provides an opportunity not only for the people of Jordan but also for visitors from Arab and other countries to acquaint themselves with the cultures of other nations.

22. It should also be noted that Jordan hosts cultural and artistic activities every year and invites artists and musicians to visit the country within the context of the cultural exchange programmes provided for in its cultural agreements with other countries.

23. The Government provides opportunities for all ethnic, social and age groups to freely express their cultural identity, practise their cultural customs and traditions and establish clubs and associations for the members of their communities. For example, Circassians, Shishan, Armenians and other communities have their own clubs, associations and folklore troupes to preserve the heritage of their minority communities.

24. The various information media play a primary role in stimulating and propagating cultural awareness among citizens and in assisting schools and universities to develop literary and artistic talents. They also show an interest in the theatre and the arts and give extensive coverage to locally produced works.

25. The radio and television stations in Jordan are Government-owned, whereas the press is owned by the private sector in order to create a balance between the official and private mass information media. Jordanian television broadcasts cultural programmmes for children and adults and also presents weekly cultural discussion groups on literature, poetry and various other topics.

26. Jordan is rich in important archaeological, religious and tourist sites. It also enjoys a temperate and varied climate and a central geographical location. Consequently, it possesses the advantages needed to attract tourists with a wide variety of interests from all parts of the world.

27. Jordan has promulgated legislation to protect the cultural heritage of mankind through the Department of Antiquities Act, which makes provision for the protection, maintenance and preservation of the archaeological heritage as an asset which plays a prominent role in developing mutual understanding and promoting cultural and humanitarian contacts among peoples.

28. Archaeological maintenance, restoration, excavation and exploration projects are constantly being conducted. The numerous projects that are currently under way include the following:

1. The restoration of the historic city of Jarash, where archaeological excavation and exploration work is continuing.

2. The Jordanian Museum of Antiquities project, the aim of which is to establish a new national museum at a cost of 2.5 million dinars.

3. The project for the development of museums, the aim of which is to highlight the local heritage of each governorate by displaying the archaeological relics excavated there in order to make citizens more aware of the history of their governorate, the importance of their archaeological heritage and the need to preserve it.

4. Archaeological excavations.

5. The purchase of antiquities with a view to their protection and preservation.

6. The purchase of land.

7. The collection and study of ancient Arabic manuscripts.

8. Archaeological surveys.

9. The restoration of mosaics and frescoes.

10. The renovation of archaeological sites in Jordan.

29. Jordan was one of the first Arab States to ratify the Copyright Protection Convention, which was adopted at the General Congress of Arab Ministers of Culture held at Tunis on 26 December 1981 with a view to protecting the rights of the authors of literary, artistic and scientific works in an effective and uniform manner.

30. The Ministry of Culture has drafted a bill of law for the protection of copyright which is one of the most recent legislative instruments in this field. It makes provision for the protection of:

(a) musical compositions, regardless of whether they are translated or accompanied by lyrics;

(b) choreographic and mime compositions;

(c) cinematographic and audiovisual broadcasting works;

(d) pictorial and illustrative works using lines and colours, as well as architectural, sculptural, decorative and other graphic works;

(e) photographic works;

(f) craft and industrial works in the field of the applied arts.

31. Jordan has also ratified the Arab Convention to Facilitate the Transfer of Arab Cultural Works, which was adopted at Tunis during the Congress of Arab Ministers of Culture held on 22 February 1987. Accordingly, such works enjoy exemption from customs duty and transport priority at low tariffs.

32. Jordan attaches special importance to vocational training in the field of culture and the arts. The principal centre concerned with this aspect is the Training Centre in the Fine Arts, which is run by the Ministry of Culture. This centre provides training in music, drawing, sculpture and the visual and dramatic arts for young persons in the age group 9-16 years. It also provides opportunities for persons interested in folklore to practise this art as a hobby. At Salt, there is a centre which provides training in weaving and ceramics. The universities, and particularly Yarmouk University, have departments of fine arts. Specialized training courses in drawing and various other arts are also held.

33. Science and technology play an extremely important role in accelerating the pace of socio-economic development by increasing productivity. The basic sciences create knowledge and increase man's understanding of himself, his society and his environment, whereas technology develops this knowledge into scientific know-how and puts it into practical application.

34. The Scientific Research Council, which was established in 1964, sponsors scientific research and represents Jordan at scientific meetings of regional and international organizations.

35. The Directorate of Science and Technology, which was established at the Ministry of Planning in 1980, supports various scientific research institutions.

36. Jordan's ability to engage in scientific research has been increased by the establishment of a number of scientific institutions such as universities, particularly the University of Science and Technology, as well as the Directorate of Agricultural Research and Guidance and the Royal Society. A Higher Council for Science and Technology was also recently established for this purpose.